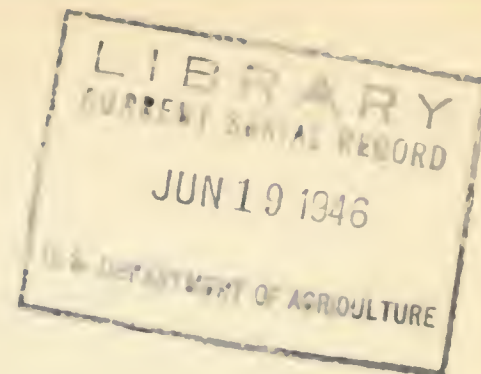


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY AND PLANT QUARANTINE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In Cooperation with State, Federal and other Agencies

COTTON INSECT CONDITIONS FOR WEEK ENDING JUNE 8, 1946
(Second Cotton Insect Survey Report for 1946)

In general too much rain and cool weather have retarded cotton growth and cultivation this season, but conditions were more favorable for cotton the past week in most areas, except in Georgia, South Carolina, and the southern portions of North Carolina, where temperatures continued too low. Boll weevil emergence from hibernation continued heavy and weevil populations are more numerous in cotton fields than usual in most areas, indicating that serious damage to the crops may be expected if the weevil is not checked by hot, dry weather, or proven control measures.

Cotton flea hoppers were reported in serious damaging numbers in the Gulf Coast area of Texas and much poisoning is being done for their control, with a 5% DDT sulphur mixture, which has proven to be very effective. Thrips were reported in damaging numbers in central Texas, but no reports were received of injury from other areas. Thrip population in Arizona, where injury occurred earlier in the season, is decreasing rapidly on account of extreme dry, hot weather. No authentic records have been received this season of the appearance of the cotton leafworm in the United States and contiguous areas in Mexico. The first leafworms are usually found in southern Texas during May.

BOLL WEEVIL

TEXAS: In 26 fields examined near Waco in central Texas, weevils were found at the rate of 799 per acre. This high population is due to the concentration of weevils in the early planted cotton, which consist of only 15 to 25% of the total acreage that will be planted to cotton in the State. At the present time weevils are destroying practically all squares that are being formed on this early cotton. In the Lower Rio Grande Valley weevil populations continued to be low. Square infestation records were made in 83 fields in Cameron County, and 59 were found to be infested at an average rate of 7.7%. From 9 fields inspected in Hidalgo County all were infested at an average rate of 4.4%. Much of the crop is now approaching maturity with shedding of excess forms in some cases where the plants have more bolls than can be matured.

LOUISIANA: The number of weevils per acre found in the northeastern portion of the State during the week was 362, as compared with 314 the previous week. This is the highest weevil population in the cotton fields of Madison Parish during the first week of June since 1934, but in 1941 the weevils were practically as numerous as they are now. Weevils continued to emerge from hibernation cages, bringing the total emergence to 7.36%. This is the highest emergence of weevils in cages to June 7 at Tallulah in 15 years, except during 1937, 1941, and 1945.

MISSISSIPPI: Federal and State Plant Board inspectors examined 194 farms in 37 counties during the week, and 78 were infested at an average of 166 weevils per acre on the infested farms, as compared with 161 on this date last year. In general, cotton is small and needs cultivation. Only one field of the 194 farms examined had squares large enough to be infested, which is about the same condition as existed a year ago at this time.

GEORGIA: Square examinations were made in eleven fields in Tift County and all were infested with weevils. The infestations ranged from 12% to 54%, with an average of 27% punctured squares. In most fields in this area there are from 4 to 7 squares per plant. Boll weevils are more numerous in Tift County now than at this date during any recent year.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Examinations were made in 153 fields in 26 counties, and 105 were infested at an average rate of 233 weevils per acre. In general, throughout the State all fields with cotton approaching the squaring stage appear to have some weevils. This is true in the Piedmont Section and in the Pee Dee area. There are more boll weevils in the fields now than during any first week of June since 1939.

NORTH CAROLINA: Examinations were made in 21 fields in Robeson, Scotland, and Hoke counties, and 9 were infested at the rate of 179 weevils per acre.

COTTON FLEA HOPPER

Cotton flea hopper infestations are serious in the Gulf Coast region. During the week ending June 1, 14 fields in Calhoun County were examined where the infestations ranged from 20 to 120, or an average of 66 flea hoppers per 100 terminals. Striking results in eliminating these heavy populations have been obtained by some farmers who have dusted with a mixture of 5% DDT in sulphur at the rate of about 12 pounds per acre.

INSECTS ON IRRIGATED COTTON OF THE SOUTHWEST

Stinkbugs, Lygus bugs, and other hemipterous insects that attack cotton in the irrigated sections of the southwest did not increase in numbers in the Salt River and Santa Cruz Valleys of Arizona and in the El Paso Valley of Texas. Thrips and beet armyworms caused considerable damage to cotton in Arizona early in the season, but they are decreasing in numbers rapidly at this time.

June 12, 1946

